

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 00297 171635Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CA-01 /018 W
-----031830 180038Z /13
R 171700Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5287

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FOR ALAN GISE FROM JOE MCLEAN, CHIEF OF SECTION AI FOR HARRY
QUINN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, PN(BHARATH, PATRICIA BLACK)
SUBJECT: EMBASSY PROTEST TO GOVT OF PANAMA

REF: STATE 3734 AND PREVIOUS

1. PROTEST SUGGESTED IN 77 STATE 242437 WAS NOT FILED. DETENTION FOR IMMIGRATION VIOLATION IS SENSITIVE SUBJECT AS WE RECEIVE FREQUENT COMPLAINS ABOUT VISA REFUSALS OR DENIALS OF AD-MISSION TO U.S. NEITHER WOULD THE COMPLAINT HAVE BEEN TIMELY. PANAMANIAN IMMIGRATION IS UNDER CONTROL OF NATIONAL GUARD G-2 (MILITARY INTELLIGENCE) AND THIS OFFICE PROVIDED FULL INFORMAL REPORT AND WILL DO SO IF OTHER INCIDENTS OCCUR. IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PROVIDE NO INFORMATION ANYONE WITHOUT NATIONAL GUARD APPROVAL.

2. POST FEELS THAT PROTEST WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE IN DRUG ARRESTS, WHEN ACCESS IS DELAYED UNTIL INTERROGATION IS COMPLETED. CONSULAR OFFICER IS NORMALLY NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY OF ARREST BY DEA, BUT CONSULAR ACCESS IS ROUTINELY DELAYED FIVE WORKING DAYS AND OCCASIONALLY AS MUCH AS TEN WORKING DAYS DESPITE DAILY REQUESTS FOR VISITATION RIGHTS. DEPARTMENTAL FILES WILL SHOW THAT
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THIS HAS BEEN THE PRACTICE SINCE THE EARLY 1970'S WHEN G-2 BEGAN TO ASSUME ACTIVE ROLE IN DRUG ENFORCEMENT.

3. DEPARTMENTAL FILES WILL ALSO SHOW THAT THIS PRACTICE WAS ONE OF SUBJECTS OF NUMEROUS NOTES OF PROTEST FILED DURING PERIOD 1970-73 AND THAT NOTES ROUTINELY WENT UNANSWERED. POST HAS COPY OF REPLY TO ACCESS PROTEST

FILED BY COLOMBIAN EMBASSY PANAMA IN WHICH GOP STATES
THAT THEY ARE NOT ALWAYS ABLE TO ADHERE TO VIENNA CONVENTION
WHEN THEY ARE TRYING TO BREAK UP DRUG CONSPIRACY AIMING
TO INTROUDCE LARGE QUANTITIES OF DRUGS IN THE UNITED STATES.
THEY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY FIND IT AMBIVALENT FOR USG TO ALSO
PROTEST SUCH PRACTICES SO WE SUGGEST INFORMAL NOTIFICATION
THAT PROTEST WILL AGAIN BE FILED IF ACCESS DELAYED. WE
ALSO SUGGEST THAT PROTEST BE DISCUSSED WITH AMCIT WHO IS
UNDER DENTENTION. WHEN SUBJECT HAS BEEN RAISED, DETAINEES
WERE OPPOSED TO PROTEST AS THEY FEAR THAT 8-MONTH SENTENCE
NORMALLY IMPOSED FOR SUCH CASES WOULD BE RAISED TO 5-8 YEAR
SENTENCE REQUIRED BY PANAMANIAN LAW FOR INTERNATIONAL
DRUG TRAFFICKING.
JORDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PANAMA00297
Document Source: CORE
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Film Number: D780025-0788
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780155/aaaabuhn.tel
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e5cccf2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 3734
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
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To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e5cccf2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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